UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/801,260	03/15/2004	Ichiro Fujimori	13912US04	2251

23446 7590 08/09/2005

MCANDREWS HELD & MALLOY, LTD
500 WEST MADISON STREET
SUITE 3400
CHICAGO, IL 60661

EXAMINER	
CAO, PHAT X	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2814	

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/801,260	FUJIMORI, ICHIRO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Phat X. Cao	2814	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *26 May 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 14-15 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- In claims 14, lines 1-2, a phrase " a second noisy voltage" should be changed to "a noisy voltage" because a first noisy voltage is not mentioned in base claim 1;

- Similarly, in claim 15, lines 1-2, a phrase "said second noisy voltage source" should be changed to "said noisy voltage source".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- in claim 1, line 4, a phrase "a transistor layer integrated within the chip" is unclear because it does not specify which layer of a transistor is "a transistor layer". For the examination purpose, a transistor well layer as disclosed in Applicant's Fig. 2 is assumed as "a transistor layer".

- In claim 1, lines 6-7, a phrase "at least one transistor of a first transistor type that **couples** said transistor layer to said shielding layer" is unclear. It is unclear because how the transistor of a first transistor type can couple the transistor layer

to the shielding layer when the transistor of a first transistor type lying above both the transistor layer and the shielding layer (see Fig. 2 of Applicant). For the examination purpose, the examiner assumes that a transistor of a first transistor type is formed in "a transistor layer", and the transistor layer couples to the shielding layer, as disclosed in Applicant's Fig. 2.

- Claims 2-14 are also rejected because they depend from claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 8-9, 12 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Puar et al (US. 6,356,497) in view of McCormack et al (US. 6,395,591).

Regarding claims 1 and 8-9, Puar (Fig. 5) discloses a system for reducing noise in a chip, the system comprising: a substrate layer (P substrate) integrated within the chip; a transistor well layer (N-Well) integrated within the chip; at least one transistor of a first transistor type (P-type) formed within the well layer; and a positive potential of a quiet voltage source Vdd (column 4, lines 59-63) that is coupled to the at least one transistor of the first transistor type.

Puar does not disclose that the transistor well layer (N-Well) is shielded by a shielding layer.

However, McCormack (Fig. 2) teaches the forming of a transistor within a transistor well layer, and the transistor well layer is shielded by a shielding layer 12. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to modify the device of Puar by forming the shielding layer with the structure as set forth above, because as is well known, such shielding layer would isolate the transistor form the substrate for preventing the parasitic resistance or the parasitic capacitance formed between the transistor and the substrate.

Regarding claims 14-15, Puar (Fig. 5) further discloses a noisy voltage source 38 of positive (column 4, lines 59-63) coupled to a source of the transistor.

Regarding claim 12, McCormack (Fig. 2) further teaches that the shielding layer 12 is disposed between the substrate layer 10 and the transistor well layer 16/18/22.

5. Claims 1-10, 12, and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCormack et al (US. 6,395,591) in view of Puar et al (US. 6,356,497).

Regarding claims 1, 8-9 and 12, McCormack (Fig. 2) discloses a system in a chip, the system comprising: a substrate layer 10 integrated within the chip; a transistor well layer 16/18/22 within the chip, which is shielded from the substrate layer 10 by a shielding layer 12; a transistor 30 of a first transistor type (P type) disposed within the transistor well layer 22, wherein the transistor well layer 22 is coupled to the shielding layer 12, and the shielding layer 12 is disposed between the substrate layer 10 and the transistor well layer 22.

McCormack does not disclose a positive potential of a quiet voltage source coupled to the transistor 30.

However, Puar (Fig. 5) teaches the forming of a system for reducing noise in a chip, the system comprising a transistor of P type disposed in a transistor well layer (N-Well) and having a positive potential Vdd of a quiet voltage source (column 4, lines 59-63) coupled to the transistor. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to couple a positive potential of a quiet voltage source to the transistor well layer (N-Well) of the transistor 30 of McCormack because such coupling of positive quiet voltage source to the transistor well layer would prevent the noise generated from the noisy substrate voltage, as taught by Puar (column 4, lines 55-65).

Regarding claims 2-7, McCormack (Fig. 2) further discloses a transistor 28 of a second transistor type (N type) disposed within the transistor well layer 16 and coupled to the shielding layer 12, wherein the transistor 28 has a transistor well layer 16 of P type is resistivity coupled to the shielding layer 12 of P type and has a first noisy voltage source 24 (column 3, lines 53-55) coupled to a source 17 of the transistor 28.

Regarding claim 10, McCormack (Fig. 2) further discloses that the transistor 30 has a transistor well layer 22 of N type is capacitively coupled to the shielding layer 12 of P type.

Regarding claims 14-15, Puar (Fig. 5) also teaches a noisy voltage 38 (column 4, lines 59-63) coupled to the transistor source of a first transistor type (P type).

6. Claims 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCormack et al and Puar et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Wei (US. 6,403,992).

McCormack discloses the shielding layer 12 is deep P-well, but not N-well which

is capacitively coupled to the substrate layer 10.

However, Wei teaches the conventional of forming a transistor within a shielding layer of P-well, which is capacitively coupled to the N type substrate (Fig. 3), or a transistor within a shielding layer of N-well which is capacitively coupled to the P type substrate (Fig. 4). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to form the shielding layer 12 of McCormack with either N type or P type because they both provide the benefits of eliminating substrate effect, as taught by Wei (column 1, lines 47-60).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claimed invention have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phat X. Cao whose telephone number is 571-272-1703. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wael Fahmy can be reached on 571-272-1705. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PC
August 4, 2005

PHAT X. CAO
PRIMARY EXAMINER